

Sports Officials

There are hundreds of officials dedicated to the City of Rockville's youth and adult sports programs.

Officials who work programs run by the City's Department of Recreation and Parks do get paid. For example, umpires for adult softball games get about \$25 per game, officials at youth basketball games get paid in the range between \$15-39.

However, the pay is nominal compared to the efforts these employees must exert in technical game knowledge and staying in shape to keep up with the pace of play. In most sports, the officials are the only ones who never get to leave the field for breaks.

An outstanding day for these officials is if they get through games quietly, with hardly a notice by players because most of their calls seemed to be the right ones.

"Our officials take pride in what they do," said Jen Betts, sports program supervisor. "They are invested in the program and get upset if someone complains. The players know the officials are trying hard and know the games could not go on without them."

Overall, Betts said becoming an official is a great way for former athletes to stay close to the game — and get exercise. To learn more about becoming a Rockville sports official, call 240-314-8620.